

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. In the spirit of equal coverage Sinclair should also air Fahrenheit 9/11 or at least Going Up River on the same number of stations and simultaneous to the airing of Stolen Honor.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest - the whole public - not just the Republican or conservative part of the public. But when large companies control the airwaves, the public get more of what's good for the company's bottom line and less of what the public needs for a strong and healthy democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive, in-depth, truthful reporting about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. It is a reminder that there was a time when the media were a collection of brave people who sought out and reported the truth for the sake of justice and democracy. Thank you.